

Message Text

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67

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 DHA-02 AID-05

SCSE-00 HEW-06 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00 OMB-01 /066 W

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R 291633Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5436

UNCLAS ROME 1528

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, IT

SUBJECT: AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR ITALIAN
SERVICES

REF: (A) ROME 17536, (B) STATE 10609

1. AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES (AVCA) ADVISES
EMBASSY THAT ITS CHARITABLE MATERIAL ENTERING ITALY IS SUBJECT
TO THE FOLLOWING:

(A) GOI (PRESUMABLY CUSTOMS) RECOGNIZES IT STILL HAS
OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE DUTY-FREE TREATMENT. HOWEVER, BECAUSE
OF ABOLITION OF ENTE NAZIONALE PER LA DISTRIBUZIONE DEI
SOCCORSI IN ITALIA (ENDSI), NO ONE CAN MAKE NECESSARY CERTIFI-
CATION AND THEREFORE CUSTOMS UNABLE, IN FACT, TO PROVIDE DUTY-FREE
TREATMENT.

(B) GOI APPARENTLY CONSIDERS ITSELF OBLIGATED TO CONTINUE
TO PROVIDE FREE TRANSPORTATION WITHIN ITALY. HOWEVER,
AMMINISTRAZIONE PER LE ATTIVITA' ASSISTENZIALI ITALIANE ED
INTERNAZIONALI (AAI), WHICH ASSUMED MOST OF ENDSI'S FUNCTIONS,
HAS NO RPT NO FUNDS WHICH CAN BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.
ACCORDING TO ACVA, AAI WOULD ASSUME THIS OBLIGATION IF
MINISTRY TREASURY AURHTORIZES FUNDS SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS
PURPOSE. ACVA IS TRYING TO WORK OUT ITS OWN ARRANGEMENTS
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TO TAKE CARE OF INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION.

2. ACVA ADVISES THAT CRUCIAL FACTOR IS DUTY-FREE ENTRY. IF GOI UNABLE FIND WAY TO GRANT THIS, ACVA WILL HAVE TO TERMINATE OPERATIONS. WHILE ACVA OBVIOUSLY PREFERS FREE TRANSPORTATION, IT CAN FUNCTION WITHOUT IT, AS LONG AS NO DISASTER RELIEF IS REQUIRED, SINCE BULK OF OPERATIONS ARE IN VICINITY OF TRIESTE, WHERE MATERIAL IS IMPORTED.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES MAIN CONSIDERATION IS WHETHER GOI WISHES ACVA PROGRAM TO CONTINUE. SINCE GOI APPARENTLY RECOGNIZES ITS OBLIGATION TO CONTINUE TO ACCORD DUTY-FREE TREATMENT, IT WILL PROBABLY COME TO CONCLUSION IT WILL EITHER HAVE TO TAKE STEPS TO PROVIDE THIS TREATMENT OR RECOGNIZE ALTERATION OF 1948 AGREEMENT. RATHER THAN AWAITING COMPLETION OF CIRCULAR 197 PROCEDURE ON THE CHANCE GOI REQUESTS REVISION OF AGREEMENT, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS IT BE AUTHORIZED TO RAISE ISSUE NOW WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY -- TAKING NEUTRAL STANCE ON CONTINUATION OF ACVA PROGRAM. IF FOREIGN MINISTRY REQUESTS REVISION OF 1948 AGREEMENT, WE COULD THEN INITIATE CIRCULAR 197 PROCEDURE.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.VOLPE

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NNN

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